

Benchmark Ib.1.1: BMCW permanency consultation workgroup meets to discuss identified systemic barriers and amend program policy to support process.

Evidence of Completion: Summary analysis of policy amendments

Benchmark Ib.1.2: Oversee documentation, tracking of consultations and follow-up on Permanency Action Plans and make adjustments for improved implementation, as needed.

Evidence of Completion: Monthly and quarterly reports

In January and February 2011 two “Power Week” trainings were conducted which resulted in a larger number of 5, 10, and 15-month permanency consultations conducted. The Program Evaluation Managers (PEMs) handled scheduling and acted as scribes for the consultations between January and June. Monthly workgroup meetings were held between January and June to address issues that arose regarding the permanency consultations. This group consisted of management from both contracted case management agencies, the BMCW, and the PEMs. The workgroup addressed issues of scheduling the consultations, roles of the team members, efficient use of time in the consultations, use of external consultants, feedback on the debriefing of consultations, and use of eWiSACWIS for reports and fields for data collection and organization. Based on analysis of daily management of the permanency consultation process, the workgroup transitioned the role of day-to-day operations from the PEMs to the BMCW’s contract agencies (Children’s Service Society of Wisconsin (CSSW) and Integrated Family Services (IFS)). The PEMs continue to monitor this process but allow the two agencies to manage the consultations and report data to the PEMs. The eWiSACWIS update in July included the development of fields specific for permanency consultations that is now used to immediately enter brain storming information, permanency goals, action plans, and scheduling of the next consultation.

Beginning in June 2011, instead of regular workgroup meetings, issues arising regarding the permanency consultations have been addressed at the BMCW Quarterly meetings. The BMCW Quarterly meetings consist of upper management from the partner agencies (CSSW, IFS, UW-Milwaukee extension, and St. Aemilian-Lakeside) as well as management from BMCW and the PEMs. An update on the permanency consultations was addressed at the most recent quarterly meeting on January 18, 2012. A recap of the permanency consultations from 2011 was provided, and the discussion focused on the most recent project, which involves reviewing a sample of cases (20) in which the child has had four or more placements in out-of-home care. The review will include an analysis of the most recent Permanency Plan Review, Permanency Consultation staffing, and Action Plans to assess likelihood of achieving permanency for the child in a timely manner. The PEM conducting the review will meet individually with the case manager, their supervisor and the permanency consultant to review each case. Other relevant players (such as licensing specialists) are invited to participate in the review as well. The original Permanency Consultation Workgroup is being pulled together again to assess the progress of the permanency consultations. This workgroup will start meeting again in February 2012. In December 2011, the PEM overseeing the project began acting as external consultant for some of the consultations at both agencies.

Permanency Consultations Report Data

During CY2011 the BMCW served 3,418 children. 42% of those children received a Permanency Consultation. 77% of the children who received a Permanency Consultation had a Legal Permanency Status rating of Fair or below. 1,576 tasks assigned on the action plan were completed before the next Permanency Consultation occurred.

2011 Permanency Consultations				Legal Permanency Status					
Month	Children in OHC	Permanency Consultations Completed	Tasks Completed	Permanency Achieved	Very Good	Good	Fair	Uncertain	Poor
Jan	2183	82	89	0	9	8	7	31	27
Feb	2144	102	170	6	2	16	15	30	33
March	2138	65	107	4	2	6	8	28	17
April	2158	96	132	1	5	14	13	38	25
May	2186	146	201	6	2	17	22	45	54
June	2127	25	97	3	0	1	9	6	6
July	2105	75	58	12	1	4	19	23	16
August	2094	130	105	7	1	22	24	37	39
Sept	2096	156	180	4	4	5	50	45	48
Oct	2109	149	144	16	8	21	27	47	30
Nov	2106	228	109	17	21	35	38	53	64
Dec	2060	207	184	14	17	19	46	42	69
Total	3418*	1461	1576	90	72	168	278	425	428

*Children served in OHC during 2011